



Water Infrastructure Finance Authority of Arizona

NEWS RELEASE

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National Clean Watersheds Needs Survey Reveals Arizona Projected 20-Year Infrastructure Needs at \$6.1 Billion

PHOENIX- EPA reported that \$202.5 billion in Clean Water Act related infrastructure needs across the country in there 2004 Clean Watershed Needs Survey Report that was released to Congress on January 16.

Arizona ranked 9th nationally, with 3% of the total documented needs, although Arizona only receives 0.68% of the total EPA allocation.

“Arizona’s large need reflects the challenges confronting water utilities as they face the expense of near capacity infrastructures and continuous growth,” said Owens, who is also the Director of the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality. “As communities grow, so too must the commitment to sustainable infrastructure financing.”

Under the Clean Water Act, EPA is required to conduct the survey every four years, to relate to Congress the estimated costs of wastewater infrastructure needs for the next 20-years. The results are used by lawmakers to make informed decisions about pollution control measures necessary to meet environmental and health objectives. The findings are based on a census survey of more than 30,000 water quality programs and projects in 49 states, the District of Colombia, and Puerto Rico. Alaska did not participate.

The state’s most significant areas of need are individual/decentralized sewage treatment (septic tank) problems with \$400 million in needs. Storm water management program needs \$1.2 billion and recycled water distribution program needs of \$365 million. These three areas represent roughly about 30% of the state’s overall watershed infrastructure needs.

Arizona also ranked among the top ten highest in per capita needs at over \$1,000 per person.

Roughly 6% of the population in the state of Arizona are on individual/decentralized sewage systems, or do not receive centralized treatment. The survey results indicate that, 94% of residents receive centralized wastewater treatment.

To insure continuous improvements in wastewater treatment, infrastructure improvements, capital renewal, municipal storm water management, recycled water distribution and insure the needs of rural communities, Arizona will need to make an estimated \$6.1 billion in investments over the next 20-years.

The report is available on the WIFA website at www.azwifa.gov WIFA, provides communities and private water systems with access to low-interest financial assistance and technical help needed for basic water infrastructure.